

Psalms 135:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD will judge his people, and he will repent himself concerning his servants.

Analysis

God's relationship with His people receives tender expression: 'the LORD will judge his people, and he will repent himself concerning his servants.' The Hebrew 'din' (judge) here carries the sense of vindication and defense rather than condemnation - God will execute justice on behalf of His people against their oppressors. The phrase 'repent himself' (yitnecham) regarding His servants indicates God's compassionate response to their suffering, not a change of mind due to error. This same language appears in Deuteronomy 32:36, a Song of Moses passage this psalm echoes. God's 'judgment' is good news for His covenant people; His 'repentance' means He will relent from discipline when they return to Him. The verse balances divine justice with divine compassion. Hebrews 10:30 quotes this passage, applying it to the church as God's covenant community awaiting vindication.

Historical Context

This verse quotes Deuteronomy 32:36 nearly verbatim, drawing from Moses' final song. The concept of God 'repenting' or 'relenting' appears throughout Scripture (Exodus 32:14; Jonah 3:10) and refers to God responding appropriately to changed circumstances while remaining consistent in His character. It emphasizes God's personal, relational engagement with His people.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God "judge" or vindicate His people today?
2. In what ways has God shown you compassion as His servant?

Interlinear Text

פִּי	יִשְׁפֹּט	יְהוָה	עַמּוֹ	וְעַל	עַבְדּוֹ יוֹ
H3588	will judge	For the LORD	his people	H5921	himself concerning his servants
	H1777	H3068	H5971		H5650
וְיִתְנַחֵם:					
and he will repent					
H5162					

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 32:36 (Judgment): For the LORD shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left.

Psalms 50:4 (Judgment): He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.

Psalms 7:8 (Judgment): The LORD shall judge the people: judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity that is in me.

1 Chronicles 21:15 (Repentance): And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

Jonah 4:2 (Repentance): And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

Amos 7:6 (Repentance): The LORD repented for this: This also shall not be, saith the Lord GOD.

Amos 7:3 (Repentance): The LORD repented for this: It shall not be, saith the LORD.

Judges 10:16 (References Lord): And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the LORD: and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel.

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